



How To Get Help With Your Medicare Costs

We are writing to let you know how you can get help paying your Medicare costs through the Extra Help program, a Medicare Savings Program, or both. You may be able to get help paying your Medicare prescription drug coverage costs and Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premiums and other medical costs. Some people also may get help with their Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) costs.

Am I eligible for Extra Help?

The Extra Help program helps pay your Medicare prescription drug plan costs. If you have little income, few resources, and Medicare, you may be able to get Extra Help. To get Extra Help:

- Your yearly income must be less than \$17,820 if you are single, or \$24,030 if you are married and living together. Your income can be higher if you or your spouse works, other people who live with you rely on you for support, or you live in Alaska or Hawaii.
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks, or bonds) must not total more than \$13,640 if you are single, or \$27,250 if you are married and living together. Certain things you own, like your house, car, life insurance, and up to \$1,500 per person in burial expenses do not count as resources.

To use Extra Help, you must enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

To apply for Extra Help or ask questions

You can apply for Extra Help or learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp online. You also can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to apply over the

(over)

phone or request an application. TTY users should call TTY 1-800-325-0778. You also can apply at your local Social Security office. To find the address for your local Social Security office, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/locator. For more information on Medicare prescription drug plans, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov online.

Am I eligible for a Medicare Savings Program?

Medicare Savings Programs also can help with Medicare costs, like your monthly Part B premiums. To get this help, your State medical assistance (Medicaid) office will need to know about your income and resources. In most cases, to be eligible:

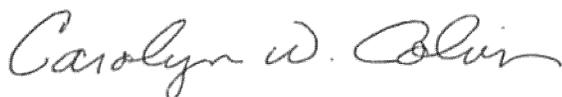
- Your monthly income must be less than \$1,357 if you are single, or \$1,823 if you are married and living together. Some States, like Alaska and Hawaii, have higher income limits. Also, your income can be higher if you or your spouse works.
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks, or bonds) must not total more than \$7,280 if you are single, or \$10,930 if you are married and living together. Some States allow you to have more. Also, your house, car, and up to \$1,500 per person in burial expenses do not count as resources.

To apply for Medicare Savings Programs or ask questions

When you file an application for Extra Help, you also start the application process for help under the Medicare Savings Programs. Social Security will send information to your State unless you tell us on your Extra Help application not to send it.

You can also call your State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office to apply for a Medicare Savings Program or get more information. You can find out how to contact your Medicaid office by visiting www.medicare.gov/contacts or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) also can help answer Medicare questions. You can find out how to contact your SHIP office on the back of your *Medicare & You* handbook, or you can visit www.medicare.gov/contacts or call 1-800-MEDICARE.



Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration



Andrew M. Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services